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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 /101 W
----------044936 111358Z /64
P R 111338Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1015
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSYBERN
AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14646

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV BQG EAIR SZ
SUBJECT: FRG PROPOSES FREEZE ON INTERFLUG OVERFLIGHTS

REF: 77 STATE 114981

1. IN THE BONN GROUP MEETINGS OF JULY 25 AND AUGUST 9, THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) HAS SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE GDR REFUSAL TO PERMIT LUFTHANSA OVERFLIGHTS OF GDR TERRITORY FOR A LANDING IN WEST BERLIN, THE FRG PROPOSES TO FREEZE THE NUMBER OF INTERFLUG CHARTERS PERMITTED TO OVERFLY THE FRG AT THE 1977 LEVEL WHEN THERE WERE 71 OVERFLIGHTS. LEIPZIG FAIR FLIGHTS (49 MORE IN 1977) WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

2. HE ASKED FOR ALLIED VIEWS AND THE US REP SAID THIS
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APPEARED TO BE WELL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS LAST YEAR (REFTEL) WHEN THE DEPARTMENT VOICED THE HOPE THAT, IF THE GDR REFUSED THE LUFTHANSA OVERFLIGHTS, GDR "...CHARTER FLIGHTS WILL NOT CONTINUE UNLESS SOMETHING ELSE OF VALUE IS OBTAINED IN RETURN FROM THE GDR." THE US REP RECOGNIZED THE UNSETTLING EFFECT AN ABSOLUTE BAN COULD HAVE ON THE PRESENT INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS

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AND SAID HE ASSUMED THE US WOULD NOT PRESS THE FRG TO IMPOSE SUCH A BAN.

3. AT THE AUGUST 9 MEETING, THE UK REP REPORTED THE FCO'S APPROVAL OF THE FRG-PROPOSED FREEZE. THE FRENCH REP HAS NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS.

4. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE POSITION IN PARAGRAPH 2 SUPRA AND ASSUME THIS REPRESENTS THE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT VIEW.

5. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WE POUCHED TO EUR/CE ON JULY 25, THE FRG REPORTS THAT THERE WERE 39 INTERFLUG OVERFLIGHTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978. THE EMBASSY RECORDS SHOW 46 THROUGH JULY 5. THE NUMBER OF INTERFLUG FLIGHTS HAS SHOWN A STEADILY RISING TREND OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND THIS TREND WILL PRESUMABLY CONTINUE IF NO STEPS ARE TAKEN TO CURTAIL THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANDING RIGHTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTES, BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, BERLIN AIR ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN14646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-1084
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780871/aaaacgwa.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ec88264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 114981
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1760076
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG PROPOSES FREEZE ON INTERFLUG OVERFLIGHTS
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, SZ, WB, GC, GE, BQG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ec88264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014